

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 12, 1875, with transcript

Brantford, Ont., Can., Home, May 12th, 75. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

I was unable to write my usual letter on Sunday, and have been too busy since with a general white-washing going on in the house. We dined with your Uncle and Aunt on Sunday. Papa and your Uncle attended the funeral of old Mr. Stokes on that Afternoon. Poor old man, he may know perhaps by this time, what is true and what is false.

We heard yesterday from Mary, whose letter was dated but one week after the last, but was nearly three weeks later in coming to hand. We supposed it had been in the ship that was blocked up in the ice. Mary gives an account of her Father's funeral which was attended by Dr. Thompson, Mr. Pass, Mr. Richardson, Mr. R. MacDougal and brother, Mr. Anderson and Mr. John Milne. Dr. Thompson (your Uncle's old friend) took the charge. Mrs. Munroe, from Moffet kindly went to the poor girls, directly she heard of the death, and remained with them till after the funeral. On her return, Aunt Smith was taken suddenly ill, and died next day. She had been ailing for a long while, but was getting better. I think you never saw her, she was ten years younger than your grandmother. Thus three of our relatives have gone within a week. This has been a most fatal Spring. We hear too of so much serious illness. Of course your cousin had not received our letters about coming out. I think in another week we may expect a reply. 2 That unfortunate creature, Pollie, gave birth to a male child yesterday morning. Do you know any one who wants to adopt a baby? Dr. Carson was with her. Mary says, with regard to her Father's death, "It is a great comfort to me that I was at home in time to see him. He appeared quite happy and contented at seeing us round him, and we are very thankful that his death was an easy and peaceful one. Miss Neil called up to enquire for him shortly before his death, and remained with us during the closing scene." Papa is just going to Town, so I must hurry to

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a conclusion. We have had no servant since Pollie left, but we hope though hardly expect, that Susan may accompany the girls to Canada. I sincerely hope she may, though we fear her Mother will be a hindrance. Hoping dear Aleck, that you continue to be as well as when you last wrote, and that everything is going on satisfactorily, with dear love from Father and myself, I am,

Your affectionate Mother, Eliza G. Bell.